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## HAFFA Chairman Praises Members for Raising Industry Confidence



Chairman of the Hongkong Association of Freight Forwarding and Logistics Limited (HAFFA), Mr. Brian Wu praised the association's members for helping raise business confidence in the industry during what had been a testing twelve months for the city's logistics service providers.

Speaking at the annual HAFFA Spring Dinner held on March 23, 2018, Mr. Wu thanked the HAFFA Members, the Board and Secretariat, the government and industry partners for their cooperation and proactive approach to not only effectively surmounting multiple challenges, but also seeking to maximize opportunities.

The evening was attended by a high number of distinguished guests including guests of honour: Secretary for Transport and Housing Mr. Frank Chan; Legislative Council Member for Transport, The Honourable Frankie Yick; and Director-General of Civil Aviation, Mr. Simon Li.

Mr. Wu noted that, thanks to the efforts of HAFFA members and industry partners, and the cooperation of the government, the industry had experienced a strong 9.2% growth in air freight and a 4.8% increase in sea freight during 2017.

However, Mr. Wu noted that the industry continues to face a number of major issues, all of which require HAFFA's active and continued involvement.

The first important issue was security, particularly the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) New Policy Direction, which requires major changes to the Regulated Agent Regime (RAR) by phasing out Known Consignor (KC) not recognized by CAD and making it imperative to explore off-airport screening facilities to digest 75% of total cargo throughput daily. As a consequence of HAFFA members' views on the matter being communicated to the government by the association, a special task force has been formed to study the effects of the new policy. In addition, HAFFA has undertaken a wide range of activities to assist members, including dissemination of a CAD Consultation Draft of the RASCF programme, and the organization of an ICAO briefing attended by a full house of HAFFA members.

On an immediate and practical level, HAFFA provided CAD contacts for x-ray equipment assessment, disseminated detailed information on equipment currently used by cargo terminal operators, and negotiated discount or value-added schemes exclusively for its members.

The second major concern for the industry is IATA's Annual Financial Review (AFR) originally schedule for implementation in April 2018, which necessitated a HAFFA member consultation meeting last October. Following a majority vote not to support the ICAP final proposal, the association's strenuous efforts on behalf of its members were rewarded when IATA/CAC agreed to grant Hong Kong an extension of six months, until October 2018, in which to attempt to resolve the issue prior to AFR implementation.

Mr. Wu closed by predicting dramatic changes ahead, and called for industry unity in working together to make new contributions to the sustained development of the international freight forwarding industry in Hong Kong, the region and throughout the world.

The Hongkong Association of Freight Forwarding and Logistics Limited was established in 1966, and is responsible for setting industry standards as well as providing educational courses which enhance the professional standards of the freight forwarders and logistics providers in Hong Kong.

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Issued on behalf of the Hongkong Association of Freight Forwarding and Logistics Limited by PR Plus Limited. For further information, please contact Helen Feng on telephone 2575-6995 or email [helen@prplus.com.hk](mailto:helen@prplus.com.hk).